

Ancient Order of Hibernians



Major Dooley Division
Richmond, Virginia

The Dooley Dispatch

October 2015

Celebrating 36 years of Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity

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Next Meeting – Tuesday October 13th 7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Church

President's Message:



Hello my Hibernian Brothers. Ní neart go cur le chéile (There's strength in unity). Can you believe it is already less than six months till the next St Patrick's day? Where does the time go? While I was not able to make the festivities at that this year's homage to Halfway to St. Patrick's Day held on September 17th at Rare Olde Times, I did pour myself a Guinness and raise a toast to everyone. Speaking of Guinness, I am not sure if you have heard about it yet, but Guinness has come out with a beer called Guinness Nitro IPA. I have not been able to find it yet but I am looking. Let me know if you find it.

What a great picnic we had at St. Michaels on September 20th. Thank you everyone that help make this a success, from the grill masters, bartenders and everyone that brought such tasty food for all of us to share. A special thank you to Mike Muldowney for all the work he does to put this picnic on and keep us all in line. Our next business meeting will be on October 13th.

Also in store for October is the Central Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games which is on October 24th and 25th. This is a great event and also marks the start of our annual raffle. We are always looking for brothers to help us man the tent and sell tickets. We will have signup sheets at the business meeting. If I do not see you before then I pray as our famous blessing says, "And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

In árMana

Chad Costello



Upcoming AOH Dooley Events

- Business meetings second Tuesday of the month except July, August, and December
- October 24 and 25, 2015 Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games, at Richmond Raceway; www.vacelticfestival.com Kickoff the selling of 2015 Dooley Raffle Tickets and the Recruiting of New Members at Double Booth (FAMILY Event)..

Joseph Jowaisas in need of a ride to meetings and events. He lives at 6161 River Rd #15. Please call him at 288-2428, if you can assist him.

Prayer List –

Bill McKay who continues to struggle with back pain, **Monsignor Irwin** diagnosed with Leukemia, **Maura, daughter of Brian Kiernan** after shoulder surgery, **Jack Griffin's son Neil and wife Mary** are still receiving Chemo treatments,. **Jim Whelen's Aunt Clancy's best friend, Eileen O'Keefe**, had a fall and broken her hip, **Patrick McGowan's uncle, Jerry Meranda**, is having dementia problems, **Hugh Naughton's sister Marguerite** has been diagnosed with Stage One Uterine Cancer, had hysterectomy. his **wife Jessie** is in pain again, **Don Reaves**, severe back pain, **Tom Forbes brother-in-law, Gene Pilardi**, facing bone-marrow transplant, **Sean Costello's friend, Jan Jackson** suffering from back pain after car accident, **Mercedes McGann, Steve's** mother, with heart tremors, **Fr. George Zahn** dealing with pain, **Mike Wilde** – lost wife to cancer 7 months ago; has studied a lot about cellular healing since then. **Bill McCarthy**, Past AOH Division President, passed away.

Trip to Ireland

The Richmond's LOAH Mary Ryan Division is planning a trip to Ireland from May 18 -30th 2016. The cost is \$2300 which includes airfare, lodging, and car rental. Destinations include Dublin, Ring of Kerry, Cong, New Grange, Tara, Roscommon, to mention of few. For more information contact Lori Forbes, lmfherself@aol.com.

Irish NEED Apply

If you're interested in serving as an AOH Officer for 2016 please contact Dan Caffrey, 512-6288 , kkcaffrey@hotmail.com.

A slate of Officer's will be presented at our October meeting to be voted on in our November meeting and installed at our December meeting to serve in 2016.

Your 2016 Nominating Committee is Vince Eikmeier (Chair), Jim Whelen and Daniel Caffrey.

There are many rewards and benefits to being an AOH Officer.

President – Run the meetings and Division

VP – Support the Pres., run some of the events and look to become Pres. the following year

Recording Sec - take minutes at the Meetings and send them out

Fin Sec- keep track of the financials, dues and submitting forms to the State and National

Treasurer – keep the books and write checks

Standing Committee - settle any Division disputes and support Special Committee

Marshall – bring or arrange to bring flags and our materials to meetings and events

Sentinel – check members in at the meeting, run meeting raffle

Thanks to all of the Officers who have served in 2015, many of them in the same position for several years.

In Our Motto,

Daniel Caffrey



Come, Irish Dance &
Stomp out Hunger
Hanover Arts &
Activities Center
October 8 6:00-8:00

Hunger is a problem, even in our community. Help ACES to aid those in need and learn to Irish Dance!

Simple and fun Irish dances will be taught, special performances by experienced Dancers, & live music.

Just Bring a Can!!!

Basic Dance Classes will be held at the Ashland Library!
Sept 26 12:00-1:00
October 1 5:00-6:45 * (Classes not required to attend the Ceilid!)

Girl Scout Gold project

Margaret Thatcher

by Tom Murphy Political Education Chairman



Jeb Bush's recent selection of Margaret Thatcher as a face he would want on U.S. currency should raise the hackles of any Irish men and women that remember the atrocities she perpetrated in Northern Ireland.

Here are thoughts from your PEC Chairman.

Hours after the death of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the history books were being re-written and the beatification of the Iron Lady was well underway. US President Barack Obama said America had lost a "special friend". Former American secretary of state Henry Kissinger and former Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev also lamented the loss of "an historic world figure".

But who was the real Margaret Thatcher.

The class war that Thatcher unleashed in Britain is still raging. The rich have become richer, the poor decidedly more numerous and poorer. The decimation of workers' rights and the unfettered power given to finance capital were hallmarks of Thatcher's legacy.

And what was her role in Ireland's conflict? Her epitaph of "Iron Lady" is often said with admiration. In truth, her "iron" character was simply malevolent, as can be seen from her policies surrounding the Irish struggle for independence from Britain. In 1981, 10 Irish republican prisoners, led by a young Belfast man by the name of Bobby Sands, died from hunger strikes. The men died after more than 50 days of refusing prison food because they were demanding to be treated as political prisoners, not as criminals. Thatcher refused to yield to their demands, denouncing them as criminals and callously claiming that they "took their own lives". To her, it didn't matter that Bobby Sands had been elected by tens of thousands of Irish voters to the British House of Parliament during his hunger strike. He was merely a criminal who deserved to die, according to the cold, unfeeling Thatcher.

Thatcher either tacitly accepted or supported arrest without evidence, Diplock courts, torture to force confessions, and non-disclosure of evidence or facts of trials for outside review. During her reign, Great Britain was frequently cited for human rights violations by various organizations. As a result of Thatcher's intransigence to negotiate Irish rights, the violence in the North of Ireland would escalate over the next decade, claiming thousands of lives. Thatcher deliberately took the military option and, with that, countless lives, rather than engage in reasoned, mutual dialogue. Her arrogance and unwillingness to change her opinions blinded her to any other possibility. As the violence gyrated in Ireland, Thatcher would also embrace the criminal policy of colluding with pro-British death squads. Armed, funded and directed by British intelligence, these death squads would in subsequent years kill hundreds of innocent people – with the knowledge and tacit approval of Lady Thatcher. It was a policy of British state terrorism in action, sanctioned by Thatcher. One of those victims was Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane, who was murdered in February 1989. His role was to represent the oppressed Catholics who were charged with crimes. He was able to get many clients exonerated and brought illegal British activities to the attention of people all over the world. In order to scare others from taking a similar role, he was shot 12 times in the head in front of his wife and children by a British death squad, after the killers smashed their way into the Finucane home on a Sunday afternoon.

Later, Rosemary Nelson, who took on a similar role to that of Pat Finucane, was also murdered by the British forces. If they could keep people from giving fair representation to the Catholics, life would be much easier for both local police and the British government, and word would not get out to rest of the world about British suppression and human rights violation. As Gerry Adams said, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher caused "great suffering" in Ireland and her policies there ultimately failed. Thatcher has long been a figure of hate for nationalists in Northern Ireland, the United States, and all bastions of Irish pride, for her uncompromising policies during her 11 years in office between 1979 and 1990.

Supporters say her hard line was inevitable after Irish Republican militants killed close Thatcher ally Airey Neave in a 1979 car bomb attack and the IRA came close to killing her in a bomb at the Conservative party conference in Brighton in 1984.

Gerry Adams, who many viewed as the public face of the IRA (Irish Republican Army) for much of its three-decade guerrilla war against British rule in Northern Ireland, said, "Thatcher's Irish policy failed miserably and delayed the achievement of peace in 1998". "Her espousal of old draconian militaristic policies prolonged the war and caused great suffering," Adams said in a statement. "She embraced censorship, collusion and the killing of citizens by covert operations...and refused to recognize (sic) the rights of citizens to vote for parties of their choice."

Thatcher also introduced a broadcasting ban that refused to allow the voice of Gerry Adams to be heard and forced British broadcasters to dub Gerry Adams voice.

To be fair, toward the end of her political career, she was involved in some positives.

In 1985 Thatcher signed the Anglo-Irish agreement, which for the first time gave the Republic of Ireland an advisory role over the governance of the province, angering pro-British unionists. The agreement paved the way for peace talks that led to the IRA's first ceasefire in 1994 and the 1998 Good Friday peace accord. Nevertheless, critics say Thatcher's hard line against the IRA delayed progress.

Gerry Adams stated, "Her Irish policy was total and absolute failure." He indicated, however, that Thatcher played a role in opening up secret channels of communications with the IRA, but that it was not properly utilized(sic) until after she stepped down as prime minister. He summed it up, "She opened up the back channels to republicanism but failed to act.

The bottom line was Margaret Thatcher was an intolerant militarist who was willing to use violence and starvation to get her political way. She had a vendetta against the IRA which was used to persecute the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland. She approved of the British Military collusion with local police personnel to make examples of people by having them killed and covering up evidence. In the years since, the British have opened up their records and have found that many Irish Catholics were convicted without adequate investigation or evidence, and many of the more salient cases have been overturned, the innocent people have been exonerated and the British government has even paid damages to these people for imprisoning them for years.

The bottom line is this - any thought of putting Margaret Thatcher on U.S. currency would be a slap in the face of Irish America and the principals established by our Constitution and Declaration of Independence, when we fought a war many years earlier to cease the oppression by the same government.



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Hibernian Friendship



The Division honors Commodore John Barry at the banks of St Michael's pond.